



February 24, 2022

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

ICfL's Presentation to JFAC

Included in his 2022 State of the State address, Governor Little made his recommendations for the Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget. The state fiscal year 2023 is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

On February 7, the ICfL's FY23 budget proposal was presented to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) as part of the FY23 budget-setting process. The JFAC members gave considerable time and attention to the ICfL's proposal.

Governor Little recommended the ICfL's enhancement request of \$307,000 (approximately \$1 per Idaho student) in ongoing state funds for the purchase of e-books for K-12 students. The ICfL launched the Idaho Digital E-book Alliance (IDEA) in October 2020. One-time CARES Act funds were appropriated by the legislature to include more students last fiscal year. To make this a sustainable, statewide program that will enhance literacy efforts for all, the ICfL requested this funding for FY23. For more on IDEA, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idea/>.

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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

Governor Little recommended the ICfL's \$40,000 enhancement request for additional funds to meet the increased broadband needs of public libraries. This increase to the ICfL's appropriation is for the Education Opportunity Resource Act (EOR), which is the state broadband reimbursement program for public library and school district broadband costs. This increase will ensure sufficient reimbursement funds are available to public libraries for their portion of broadband costs that are not covered by E-rate. For more about E-rate and broadband, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/e-rate-broadband/>.

Funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is provided for each state to develop a digital access plan to ensure that every American can use reliable high-speed internet service. With support from Governor Little and the Idaho Department of Commerce, the ICfL will lead Idaho's planning effort with multiple state, local, and community stakeholders to identify and implement strategies to develop digital literacy training, provisions for technical support, and online privacy and cybersecurity resources. The ICfL will utilize \$1.25 million to contract with an expert to help write the final statewide Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan and conduct some baseline needs assessment components. Travel, meeting, focus group costs will also be covered by this funding source. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) provides additional funding for states that have access plans. States have five years to spend their grant awards. If stakeholders don't come together to create a plan and implement it in the next five years, more Idahoans will lack the resources and knowledge to fully benefit from the opportunities that access to the internet provides.

The Governor recommended that the ICfL utilize U.S. Treasury Department funding for coronavirus capital projects to expand the telehealth in libraries pilot that the ICfL piloted in Clearwater County with funding from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation. If approved during this legislative session, one-time funds of \$3.5 million (available FY23 - FY26) will be used for one-time construction/remodeling expenses to improve public library buildings designed to enable work, education, and health monitoring in communities with critical needs for the project as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth equipment and programming support are also eligible costs.

The ICfL would administer a competitive grant that would allow funding for a minimum of 23 Idaho communities to begin offering telehealth services in a private setting in their libraries. (This is different than the Telehealth Trailblazers Grant that is open until March 14. See page 3 for more about that grant opportunity.)



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“We greatly appreciate Governor Little’s support of the ICfL’s work to help Idaho’s libraries connect their communities to online resources and services, such as e-books and telehealth. We want all Idahoans to have equitable access to the information and communication technology that is vital for life in the 21st century, and the funding for these initiatives will go a long way toward making that a reality, particularly for many rural areas of our state,” said State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White.

JFAC is scheduled to set the ICfL’s FY23 budget on March 10. Library directors, staff, and trustees are encouraged to speak with their local legislators about how this funding could benefit their communities. For more on JFAC, including its current members, visit: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/lso/bpa/jfac/>.

Summer Intern Grant Deadline March 7

If the staff of your public library is considering expanding your workforce through the services of an intern, check out the ICfL’s summer intern grant. The deadline to apply for the \$1,000 grant is March 7.



For more on this grant, visit:
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/community-partners/workforce-development/summer-intern-grant/>.

To view a short video about library work that might entice a potential intern, visit the ICfL’s [YouTube channel](#) under “continuing education” or view directly via this link:
<https://youtu.be/yI6ZF4V72mQ>.

Telehealth Trailblazers Grant Application Due March 14



The ICfL, in partnership with the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, will be awarding a total of \$40,000 in grants to public libraries across Idaho to pilot a variety of telehealth projects in their communities. The purpose of the Telehealth Trailblazers Grant is to identify, test, and adapt a variety of methods, practices, and tools for public libraries to use in establishing telehealth services.

The grant application is due March 14, 2022.

Laundromat Literacy Interest Forms Due March 28

The ICfL is working with Idaho public libraries in rural, suburban, and urban settings to establish “literacy-rich” spaces” in local laundromats. Pilots were conducted in 2020 and 2021, and now the ICfL plans to establish more literacy centers in Idaho laundromats this spring.

If you would like your library to be part of this valuable community outreach initiative, please complete the interest form by March 28.

The form includes detailed information, including how the ICfL will support your library. For more, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/libraries-laundromats/>.



Learning in everyday spaces

Tech-Talk

Tech-Talk is a weekly, technology-focused e-newsletter for non-techies that is delivered to your email in-box. It offers tips on tech, communication, leadership ideas, research topics, and more.

To subscribe or find out more, visit:

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/tech-talk-newsletter/>.

Big Changes for School Library Access Mini-Grants -- Deadline April 1

The application for the 2022-2023 School Library Access (SLA) Mini-Grant is open with some important changes:

- Publicly funded secondary schools are now eligible to apply for the SLA Mini-Grant;
- Previous SLA Mini-Grant recipients are now eligible to reapply after three years have elapsed since the grant award year;
- First-time applicants are prioritized.

Visit the SLA Mini-Grant webpage at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/school-libraries/elementary-school-grants/> for more information about eligibility and grant requirements and tips for completing the application.

The deadline to apply for the 2022-2023 SLA Mini-Grant is April 1, 2022. If you have questions, contact ICfL School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal at jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov.



My First Books 2022-2023 Program Application Due by April 20

The program application for the 2021-2022 My First Books initiative are due by April 20, 2021. For more, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/rtm/my-first-books/>. The My First Books (MFB) outreach program is designed to give underserved children the opportunity to take home age-appropriate books and build a home library. For many participating children, these are the first quality books they can call their own.

MFB targets children from birth to age 6 who are unlikely to have many books in their homes, have a library card, or utilize library services. The program provides an age-appropriate paperback book each month during the school year for each participating child. MFB parents receive a monthly newsletter, "The Bookworm," which provides tips and strategies to support early literacy skills at home. It is also available in Spanish.

Transition from DUNS to UEI (SAM) for Grant Recipients

The Federal Government will transition from the use of the DUNS Number to the new Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide effective April 4, 2022.

UEIs are required in accordance with 2 CFR Part 25, and the transition from DUNS to UEI will result in the UEI being issued by the Federal Government through <https://sam.gov/content/home>. This means entities will no longer rely on a third party to obtain an identifier (i.e., a DUNS issued by Dun and Bradstreet).

The following are key factors related to this transition:

- Entities currently registered in <https://sam.gov/content/home> with either an active or inactive registration have been assigned an UEI. The UEI is viewable in the entities' registration records in SAM.gov.
- Entities with inactive registrations, or registrations needing updating, must ensure that their renewal or updates occur on time and as required within SAM.gov.
- From now until April 3, 2022, entities that are not already registered in SAM.gov and wish to do business with the Federal Government must obtain and/or use a valid DUNS to register their entity in SAM.gov. On and after April 4, entities that are not registered in SAM.gov will be assigned a UEI when they register and will not need to use a DUNS for entity registration or reporting.

Interactive CE Sessions Available

ICfL Continuing Education Consultant Annie Gains offers a menu of interactive continuing education sessions on a wide variety of topics (with more being added in the future). Sessions range in duration from 20 to 90 minutes and are designed to encourage discussion. To participate, you do need to submit a request. [More info.](#)

Sessions include: book displays; countdown to coding; marketing your collection; STEM-ify your library space; teens -- intro to computational thinking; your library's future hasn't been written yet; zines as a tool for engagement

ICfL Staffing Updates

Deputy State Librarian

Dylan Baker is the new deputy state librarian. In this role, Dylan contributes to the development and evaluation of the agency's strategic plan, policies, the annual budget, and the work of the library consulting staff. Dylan coordinates the planning and evaluation of statewide development programs. He also hires, coaches, and evaluates consultant and program staff and represents the interests of the Idaho library community to state and national policymakers. Dylan joined the ICfL in 2017 in the newly created role of broadband consultant. In 2020, Dylan moved into the role of e-services program supervisor. Prior to joining the ICfL, Dylan held several positions at the Ada Community Library.

E-Services Program Supervisor

William Lamb has recently been promoted to the position of e-services program supervisor for the ICfL. In this role, William provides direction, supervision, and support for staff in planning and implementing technology and e-services in furtherance of ICfL's mission. In addition, William's other duties include: facilitating internal and external assessment, planning, and training opportunities; and monitoring funding and service opportunities to support public access computing, broadband, and other e-services in public and school libraries.

Grants/Contracts Officer

Talela Florko has joined the ICfL in the role of grants/contracts officer. Talela has eight years of experience as a museum curator/archivist, contract manager, and business owner. She has a B.S. in anthropology and a master's in museum studies.

Staff members who recently left the ICfL for new opportunities are:
Allison Floyd, Ash Whitwell, Jamie Mott, and Kevin Tomlinson.

Roles that will soon be filled at the ICfL are that of public library consultant and library technology consultant.

Communications Corner

Do you know that February 26 is "Tell a Fairy Tale Day"? For a calendar of library-related holidays in 2022, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/library-communications/> and download the calendar (located under "resources"). For communications assistance, contact Donna Eggers at the ICfL: donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov.

The Big IDEA

What's the big IDEA? It's the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance. IDEA is the statewide partnership among the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), public libraries, and schools that provides high-quality e-book and e-audio titles at no cost.

IDEA is designed for K through 12 students, with approximately 95% of the fiction and nonfiction content consisting of children's, juvenile, and teen titles. There are currently more than 23,000 titles in the collection, including the Curiosity Collection of STEM content (funded by the STEM Action Center). The IDEA collection is available 24/7, allowing learning to occur any time, any place. IDEA increases students' access to, and interest in, out-of-school reading.

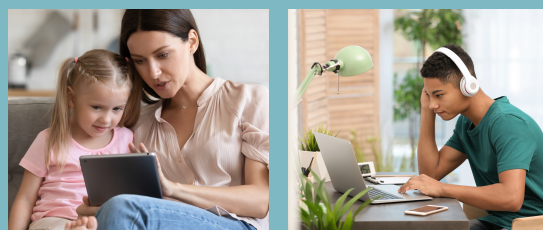
There are no start-up or ongoing costs for IDEA. Nor is it difficult for the tech staff of the library or district. OverDrive® does the hard work. For schools, sign-up occurs at the school-district level by the superintendent.

To find out more about IDEA, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idea/>. Also, if you are not certain if your school has been signed up for IDEA, this webpage contains a link for that -- click on the "Look up a library to see if they're part of IDEA" button.

Visit the ICfL's [YouTube channel](#) to access a couple of short (30- and 60-second) IDEA promotional videos.



IDAHO DIGITAL E-BOOK ALLIANCE



Trustee News

The ICfL's website contains a page dedicated to trustees and directors which contains a variety of resources, including a trustee toolkit for hiring a new director, succession and emergency planning information, a link to the Idaho public records law manual and the open meeting law manual, and much more.

For this wealth of material, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/trustees-directors/>.

The ICfL newsletter "The Envoy" will cease production this summer. Information geared for trustees will be found in this newsletter, "The Nexus," which may be received via an email or downloaded from the ICfL website here:

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/nexus/>.

Collection Development -- Donations

The ICfL recently held a Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends (LITT) chat in the category of collection development and the topic of donations. Here are some ideas from that chat that might be relevant to your library. For more on this LITT, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/litt/collection-development/>.

What do library staff do with donations that cannot be used?

- Put them in a book sale
- Put them on a free shelf/table (especially popular for romance paperbacks)
- Use them in little free libraries
- Offer them to adult care centers, childcare centers, or schools
- Use them in a library craft
- Sell them on Amazon or Biblio (<https://www.biblio.com/>) -- thanks to Michael from East Bonner County Library District for that recommendation!

Suggestions to deodorize books that come in smelly:

- Baking soda tub
- Dryer sheets
- Dry spray from Demco
- Baggie with essential oils



Payette Public -- Reaching Patrons in Person & Virtually

Payette Public Library Director Clay Ritter shares a story of a way he and his team reached patrons during (and after!) the pandemic:

In the midst of the pandemic, we did our best to reach our community and provide some services to our patrons. We started broadcasting our storytime program with Miss Wendy, our children's librarian, via Facebook. We also started "music and movement" program that we did live once a week. Occasionally, I guest starred alongside her for some of the songs and dances. We even had some people who had moved from Payette to as far away as Portland who tuned in and watched and commented on the show.

In particular, I remember a young girl who had not had a chance to visit the library while it was open, but her family discovered our Facebook page when they moved to town. Her parents always made sure to comment on our videos and assure us she was watching. When the library opened back up, that little girl thought that she was the luckiest person on the planet -- she could get all the books that Miss Wendy talked about. She often wanted to come to the library just to wave at Mr. Clay and Miss Wendy. The parents of our little fan often talk about how glad they are to be living in a community with such a welcoming and fun place to bring their daughter.

She has since become a voracious reader, and we enjoy seeing her every week.